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ABSTRACT

Three short articles about foreign language braille are presented for braille transcribers and teachers of the visually handicapped. Because dictionaries of languages other than English rarely show syllable division, the first article provides guidelines to the syllabication of Latin. The guidelines give specific rules concerning the division of diphthongs and consonantal units, adverbial prefixes, and compound words. The second article gives foreign language transcribers suggestions for dealing with the vocabulary in pictorial exercises. The third article offers advice to transcribers on the appropriate use of the letter sign. (LH)

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE BRAILLE

Syllabication: Latin

Alice Childers, Chairman

This is the fourth, and last, in a series on the syllabication of foreign languages. Previous columns were on Spanish (Spring 1982), French (Fall 1982) and German (Winter 1982-83). The columns are intended to be of assistance to transcribers who may or may not be proficient in all the languages they are asked to braille, and who find to their dismay that foreign language dictionaries usually do not show syllabication.

In deciding whether to divide words in a braille transcription, be guided by the print format. Elementary texts do not divide words, where more advanced texts do. If you are doubtful as to the correct syllabication of a word, do not divide. It is better to lose a few cells than to mislead the reader.

The following discussion of Latin syllabication does not apply to anglicized Latin scientific names in English texts. Their syllabication follows English practice.

Vowels

The five vowels, *a, e, i, o, u* are either long or short in pronunciation. In elementary texts and in dictionaries, the long vowels are marked with a macron and, often, the short vowels with a breve.

Diphthongs may never be divided. They are

ae au ei eu oe ui

There are special braille symbols for *ae* and *oe* if they are ligatured in print. If they are not ligatured, use regular braille characters for the letters.

Consonants

The Romans had no *j, u* or *w*. In Medieval times the *u* was added. The *w* came later and the *j* about 300 years ago. Most modern texts use all these letters but you will find a few where *v* still represents both *u* and *v*, and *i* both *j* and *i*. The braille transcription should conform to print usage.

Digraphs may never be divided. They are

ch ph th

Consonantal units, or consonant clusters, must also remain intact. They are

*bl br
cl cr
dr
fl fr
gl gr
pl pr
scr spl spr str
tl tr*

Syllabication

1. Diphthongs, digraphs and consonant clusters may not be divided.

2. Division is made on a vowel or on a diphthong before a single consonant, a digraph or a consonant cluster.

ca-sus si-pho pa-tres cae-lum

An exception to this rule is that the letter *x* is retained with the preceding syllable, as in *dix-it*.

3. In a group of two or more consonants, division is made before the last consonant, digraph or consonant cluster.

vit-ta mag-nus punc-tus bac-chor am-plus

4. Division may be made between vowels not constituting a diphthong.

pu-er di-es fili-us Tro-ius

5. Certain adverbial prefixes are kept intact.

<i>ab</i>	<i>ex</i>	<i>per</i>	<i>re(d)</i>
<i>ante</i>	<i>extra</i>	<i>prae</i>	<i>sub</i>
<i>circum</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>praeter</i>	<i>super</i>
<i>cis</i>	<i>inter</i>	<i>per</i>	<i>supra</i>
<i>con</i>	<i>intro</i>	<i>post</i>	<i>trans</i>
<i>de</i>	<i>ob</i>	<i>pro(d)</i>	
		<i>propter</i>	

6. Compound words are divided according to their compound parts and each part according to rules 1 to 5 above.

quot-annis et-enim sic-ut

Vocabulary and Pictures

Conchita M. Gilbertson, Chairman

This is my first opportunity to chat with you who are Foreign Language Transcribers. It would be far more conducive to conversation if you were to express some of your concerns regarding transcription.

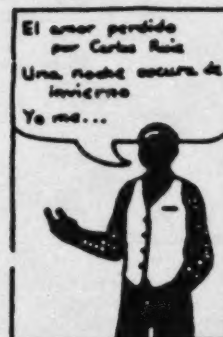
The example below is becoming more prevalent in today's textbooks. Much education seems to be picture oriented which, at first glance, may seem inappropriate for the braille reader. On further consideration, the needed information can be readily presented.

From a recently copyrighted Level 3 Spanish text, we see a part of a typical page.

A. Complete las frases según los dibujos. Empiece con el modelo.



1. Ese señor acaba de ____
carteles en la pared.
*Ese señor acaba de pegar
carteles en la pared.*



2. ¡Qué aburrido! Ramón va a ____ uno de sus poemas.



3. ¡Viva! La señora acaba de ____le al ladrón.



4. A los muchachos les gusta ____ piedras.

A very easy solution exists to this pictorial exercise. When examining the chapters, we find that new vocabulary is given in each lesson. Simply substitute the English words as shown in the text for each picture. A transcriber's note would be inserted to key the reader into this usage.

The braille would be handled thusly:

1. Ese señor acaba de ____ (to put up, to hit, to attach) carteles en la pared.
2. ¡Qué aburrido! Ramón va a ____ (recite) uno de sus poemas.
3. ¡Viva! La Señora acaba de ____ le (to put up, to hit, to attach) al ladrón.
4. A los muchachos les gusta ____ (to throw) piedras.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE BRAILLE

The Letter Sign

Conchita M. Gilbertson, Chairman

Use and non-use of the letter sign often presents a problem for the transcriber. First you must determine whether or not the single letter is a letter or a word of the language in question. This type of situation most often arises in foreign language grammars. Single letters may be italicized, underlined, boldfaced or otherwise emphasized. If they represent a whole

word, retain the typeface and DO NOT use the letter sign. If the reference is to a non-word single letter, USE the letter sign and omit the typeface indicator.

A hyphen may precede a single letter or two or more letters. In such instances, only the hyphen followed by the letter or letters is required for distinction.

Regular -ar and -er verbs . . .

. . . uno, -a . . .

Single letters of the alphabet which serve as headings to vocabularies should NOT be preceded by a letter sign. However, capitalization of the print copy is shown as a capital letter in braille.

